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For Immediate Release

COMMISSIONER SIMINGTON CALLS FOR MANDATORY SECURITY UPDATES FOR WIRELESS DEVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 15, 2022—Today, Commissioner Simington called for the FCC to modify its equipment authorization regime to require device manufacturers to explicitly commit to supporting their wireless devices with security updates for a defined period. He said that the widespread industry practice of abandoning support of wireless devices while they are still in active use by thousands or millions of Americans represents a national security risk. Such unpatched devices, he argued, are not only vulnerable to data and credential theft, but also to being commandeered by attackers and turned into distributed signal jammers.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).